

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 28, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 946

Introduced by Senator Scott

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley and Karnette)

February 23, 2007

An act to amend Section 60641 of, and to add Sections 78213.5 and 78213.8 to, the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 946, as amended, Scott. Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes those districts to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to, among other things, the rates at which students who enroll in community colleges as freshmen return for a 2nd year of college. The bill would express legislative intent that the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program, enacted by the bill, provide high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allow high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level commensurate with transfer-level English and mathematics.

The bill would establish the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for 5 years, for the purpose of providing high school

pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students. The bill would require the program to be administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

The bill would provide that community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, shall be eligible to participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to select the participating community colleges from districts applying to the program and agreeing to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. The bill would require the chancellor, in making these selections, to give priority to colleges from districts that are currently working with, or utilizing, Cal-PASS data. *The bill would require the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, in coordination with specified stakeholders in the pilot program, to provide appropriate basic skills enrichment opportunities to students at schools participating in this pilot program who require additional academic preparation in grade 12 to become college ready. The bill would require the community colleges, to the extent possible, to rely on the work already completed by the California State University Early Assessment Program to minimize duplication and the cost of implementing the program.* The bill would specify requirements to be met by participating community colleges.

The bill would require the board of governors, to the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, to provide a stipend to each participating community college. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective feeder high schools under the program.

The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, from funds provided in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, to contract with an entity deemed by the chancellor to be reputable, independent, and competent to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The bill would require this entity to submit a final evaluation report, including answers to specified questions, to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor on or before

December 1, 2013. The bill would require the Office of the Legislative Analyst to review the final report, and, on or before February 1, 2014, to make recommendations regarding whether the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program should be continued, modified, expanded, or discontinued.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) In California and throughout the nation, an increasing
4 number of jobs require some education beyond high school to meet
5 the challenges of a growing, knowledge-based global economy.
6 Of the students who seek a postsecondary education in California,
7 62 percent attend a community college. Current data show that
8 many of these students do not complete a degree, certificate, or
9 transfer program.

10 (2) More than 50 percent of incoming students of the California
11 Community Colleges require remediation or basic skills
12 development in order to complete college-level work. This is a
13 critical factor determining student success in achieving educational
14 objectives.

15 (3) There is a need for greater coordination and course
16 articulation between community colleges and high schools to create
17 smooth pathways into, and the successful completion of,
18 community college programs.

19 (4) Early assessment is a diagnostic tool and a fundamental
20 means for improving student preparation for, and success in,
21 community college. Early assessment must be part of a larger set
22 of aligned activities, so students may fully benefit from every step
23 in their educational career.

24 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the
25 Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program, enacted by
26 this act, provide high school pupils with an indicator of their
27 readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics at the end of
28 grade 11 and allow high schools to work with pupils in grade 12
29 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level commensurate with
30 transfer-level English and mathematics.

1 (c) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program help
2 pupils become better prepared for college.

3 (d) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program work
4 in coordination with, and utilize to the fullest extent possible, the
5 existing California State University Early Assessment Program
6 and the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program of
7 the State Department of Education.

8 (e) It is also the intent of the Legislature that the Community
9 College Early Assessment Pilot Program not affect the statutory
10 reporting requirements of the STAR Program or increase the costs
11 of either the STAR program or the State Department of Education.

12 SEC. 2. Section 60641 of the Education Code is amended to
13 read:

14 60641. (a) The department shall ensure that school districts
15 comply with each of the following requirements:

16 (1) The achievement test designated pursuant to Section 60642
17 and the standards-based achievement test provided for in Section
18 60642.5 are scheduled to be administered to all pupils during the
19 period prescribed in subdivision (b) of Section 60640.

20 (2) The individual results of each pupil test administered
21 pursuant to Section 60640 shall be reported, in writing, to the
22 pupil's parent or guardian. The written report shall include a clear
23 explanation of the purpose of the test, the pupil's score, and its
24 intended use by the school district. This subdivision does not
25 require teachers or other school district personnel to prepare
26 individualized explanations of each pupil's test score.

27 (3) (A) The individual results of each pupil test administered
28 pursuant to Section 60640 shall also be reported to the pupil's
29 school and teachers. The school district shall include the pupil's
30 test results in his or her pupil records. However, except as provided
31 in this section, individual pupil test results may only be released
32 with the permission of either the pupil's parent or guardian if the
33 pupil is a minor, or the pupil if the pupil has reached the age of
34 majority or is emancipated.

35 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a pupil or his or her
36 parent or guardian may authorize the release of individual pupil
37 results to a postsecondary educational institution for the purpose
38 of credit, placement, assessment, or admission.

39 (4) The districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results of the
40 STAR Program in each of the grades designated pursuant to Section

1 60640, but not the score or relative position of any individually
2 ascertainable pupil, shall be reported to the governing board of the
3 school district at a regularly scheduled meeting, and the
4 countywide, school-level, and grade-level results for classes and
5 programs under the jurisdiction of the county office of education
6 shall be similarly reported to the county board of education at a
7 regularly scheduled meeting.

8 (b) The publisher designated pursuant to Section 60642 and the
9 publisher of the standards-based achievement tests provided for
10 in Section 60642.5 shall make the individual pupil, grade, school,
11 school district, and state results available to the department
12 pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by
13 August 8 of each year in which the achievement test is administered
14 for those schools for which the last day of test administration,
15 including makeup days, is on or before June 25. The department
16 shall make the grade, school, school district, and state results
17 available on the Internet by August 15 of each year in which the
18 achievement test is administered for those schools for which the
19 last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or
20 before June 25.

21 (c) The department shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that
22 the results of the test for all pupils who take the test by June 25
23 are made available on the Internet by August 15, as set forth in
24 subdivision (b).

25 (d) The department shall ensure that a California Standards Test
26 that is augmented for the purpose of determining credit, placement,
27 assessment, or admission of a pupil in a postsecondary educational
28 institution inform a pupil in grade 11 that he or she may request
29 that the results from that assessment be released to a postsecondary
30 educational institution.

31 SEC. 3. Section 78213.5 is added to the Education Code, to
32 read:

33 78213.5. (a) (1) Commencing with the 2008–09 academic
34 year, the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program is
35 established, for five years, for the purpose of providing high school
36 pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer-level English
37 and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools
38 to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to that level.
39 The program shall be administered by the board of governors.

1 (2) In order to provide high school pupils with this indicator, a
2 community college participating in the program shall use, but not
3 necessarily be limited to, test results released to that college
4 pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 60641.

5 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 78213, the
6 individual results of the California Standards Test (CST) and the
7 California Standards Test as augmented pursuant to Section 60641
8 may be used to provide diagnostic advice to prospective community
9 college students participating in the Community College Early
10 Assessment Pilot Program.

11 (b) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall
12 work in coordination with the department in implementing the
13 Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program as it relates
14 to the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program.
15 Activities impacting the STAR Program as it relates to the
16 implementation of the pilot program may be reviewed and, where
17 necessary, approved by the state board and the department pursuant
18 to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 60643. The pilot
19 program shall be responsible for the costs incurred in implementing
20 the pilot program as it relates to the STAR Program.

21 (c) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall
22 select, from community college districts applying to participate in
23 the program, institutions that agree to meet the requirements
24 established for participation in the program. Community colleges,
25 along with their feeder high schools, may participate in the
26 Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. In selecting
27 community colleges for participation in the program, the chancellor
28 shall give priority to colleges from districts that are currently
29 working with, or utilizing, data from the California Partnership
30 for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS).

31 (d) The standards utilized by the California State University to
32 assess readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics courses,
33 as expressed in the CST as augmented by the California State
34 University, shall also be used for the purposes of this pilot program.
35 The pilot program shall utilize the identical version of the CST as
36 augmented by the California State University.

37 (e) (1) The pilot program may additionally assess readiness for
38 degree-applicable English and mathematics courses that are
39 consistent with associate degree standards as adopted by the board
40 of governors in consultation with the Academic Senate for the

1 California Community Colleges. The identical version of the CST
2 as augmented by the California State University shall be used to
3 make any additional assessment of readiness for degree applicable
4 English and mathematics courses, but the scoring of the assessment
5 may be modified.

6 (2) If the board of governors determines that the assessment
7 described in paragraph (1) should be included in the pilot program,
8 then, in furtherance of this purpose, CST items may be reviewed
9 by any person charged by the board of governors with the
10 implementation of the program, if that person agrees in writing,
11 prior to the review of the CST, to maintain the confidentiality of
12 the CST and its items and that the evaluation of these items shall
13 be done in coordination with the department and the California
14 State University to ensure the security and the integrity of the CST
15 and the test items augmented by the California State University.

16 *(f) The Chancellor's Office of the California Community*
17 *Colleges, in coordination with the California State University, the*
18 *academic senates of the participating community colleges and*
19 *California State University campuses, and participating teachers*
20 *of kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, shall provide*
21 *appropriate basic skills enrichment opportunities to students at*
22 *schools participating in this pilot program who require additional*
23 *academic preparation in grade 12 to become college ready. To*
24 *the extent possible, the community colleges shall rely on the work*
25 *already completed by the California State University Early*
26 *Assessment Program to minimize duplication and the cost of*
27 *implementing the Community College Early Assessment Pilot*
28 *Program.*

29 (f)

30 (g) At a minimum, the following requirements shall be met by
31 participating community colleges and high schools:

32 (1) Participating community colleges shall consult with the
33 Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges to
34 sequence their precollegiate level courses and transfer-level courses
35 in English and mathematics to the elementary and secondary
36 academic content standards adopted pursuant to Section 60605.

37 (2) Participating community colleges shall make college
38 outreach advisors available to participating feeder high schools to
39 assist students in making decisions that increase their college

1 readiness skills and increase the likelihood of their pursuing a
2 postsecondary education.

3 (i)

4 (h) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall
5 work with the department and the California State University to
6 develop a community college student notification system that
7 utilizes, to the extent possible, the current early assessment system
8 of the California State University for notifying pupils of their grade
9 11 test results and apprising them of grade 12 academic enrichment
10 opportunities. This system shall ensure that all of the following
11 occur:

12 (1) Prospective community college students receive notification
13 regarding their readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics
14 at a community college and grade 12 academic enrichment
15 opportunities available to pupils for strengthening English and
16 mathematics skills that will help them succeed in college.

17 (2) Prospective community college pupils are informed that this
18 information is only an indicator of their readiness to take
19 transfer-level English and mathematics courses and has no bearing
20 on their eligibility to attend community college.

21 (3) Pupils are reassured that they are eligible to attend
22 community college.

23 (4) The department is not responsible for funding any additional
24 costs associated with implementing this section.

25 (j)

26 (i) To the extent that funding is provided specifically for this
27 purpose in the annual Budget Act or in another statute, the board
28 of governors shall provide a stipend to each participating
29 community college. It is the intent of the Legislature that this
30 stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the
31 participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs
32 incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective
33 feeder high schools under the Community College Early
34 Assessment Pilot Program.

35 SEC. 4. Section 78213.8 is added to the Education Code, to
36 read:

37 78213.8. (a) From funds provided in the annual Budget Act
38 for this purpose, the Chancellor of the California Community
39 Colleges shall contract with an entity deemed by the chancellor to
40 be reputable, independent, and competent to evaluate the

1 effectiveness of the Community College Early Assessment Pilot
2 Program.

3 (b) (1) No more than six months after the second administration
4 of the assessment to grade 11 pupils under Section 78213.5, the
5 entity contracted with pursuant to subdivision (a) shall submit an
6 interim evaluation report to the Legislature, the Superintendent of
7 Public Instruction, and the Governor. By December 1, 2013, the
8 entity shall submit a final evaluation report to the Legislature, the
9 Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor.

10 (2) The final evaluation of the Community College Early
11 Assessment Pilot Program shall, at a minimum and to the fullest
12 extent possible, call upon the expertise of community college
13 faculty and explore, but not necessarily be limited to, answers to
14 all of the following questions:

15 (A) Do students who participate in the pilot program and who
16 require additional skill development in English or mathematics,
17 or both, adjust their grade 12 course schedule to include English
18 or mathematics, or both, to better prepare for postsecondary
19 education?

20 (B) Is there a decrease in the total number of basic skills courses
21 that pilot program participants must complete before entering
22 degree applicable courses and transfer-level courses at community
23 colleges?

24 (C) Are the indicators of readiness for transfer-level courses
25 utilized in the pilot program appropriate and accurate indicators
26 of readiness for degree applicable and transfer-level courses?

27 (c) The Office of the Legislative Analyst shall review the final
28 report submitted under subdivision (b), and, on or before February
29 1, 2014, shall make recommendations regarding whether the
30 Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program should be
31 continued, modified, expanded, or discontinued.